

*From Thomas R. Roulhac*

UNC

Hillsboro', N.C.,

Jan. 28th., 1863.

Learning some time ago, that there was such a thing, (or would be) as a Confederate Military Academy, & as I desire to make the army my profession, I have determined to ask your influence to aid me in procuring the Cadetship.

I hope you will excuse my being thus premature, but I am exceedingly anxious to obtain the place, and thought that in your capacity as C.S. Senator, you might be able to do something for me.

If you can do this for me, without trouble, you will place [me] under lasting obligations.

*From William A. Graham, Jr.*

DUKE

Proctor's Creek

January 29, 1863

Dear Father

I learned yesterday that Col Williams<sup>18</sup> had been assigned to the command of the 12th N.C.T. <sup>19</sup> and that Robeson<sup>20</sup> was to be our Col. I dont see why he should be. He has been with the regiment very little. He was appointed that he might drill the regiment & yet he has never drilled but four companies & two of these only a few times. His attack upon Gillet showed him to be incompetent to command cavalry, and furthermore I think he is one of the most unprincipled dogs that walks the earth. And he has as little use for me as I for him. I would be much obliged to you if you

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<sup>18</sup> Solomon Williams (1835-1863), of Nash County, graduated from West Point in 1858 and served as a cavalryman against the Kiowas before resigning his commission to join the Confederacy. He was colonel of the Twelfth North Carolina Regiment until June, 1862, when he became colonel of the Nineteenth (Second Cavalry). He was killed at Brandy Station on June 9, 1863, only two weeks after his marriage. General J. E. B. Stuart reporting his death said: "He was as brave as he was efficient." Cullum, *Biographical Register of the Military Academy*, II, 703-704; Clark, *Histories of the North Carolina Regiments*, I, 424, 606, 609; II, 83, 93.

<sup>19</sup> This rumor was false.

<sup>20</sup> Lieutenant Colonel William G. Robinson, of Onslow County, was wounded and captured in a skirmish at Gillet's farm. Criticized for his actions there, Robinson never returned to the regiment. Clark, *Histories of the North Carolina Regiments*, II, 82; Barrett, *Civil War in North Carolina*, 124-125.